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Grade Level: 4-5

Primary Source Citation: Photograph of a mile marker used on the National Road, located at the Ohio National Road Museum, Norwich, Ohio; taken on November 19, 2009 by Karen Shank

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine photograph while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description
1. Describe the shape of the marker.
2. What is written on the marker?

Level II: Interpretation
1. Where do you think these markers could have been found?
2. Why do you think there is more than one city name and distance written on it?
3. Who do you think decided where and how many of the markers would be used?
4. How many of these markers do you think were found on the National Road in the late 1800s?

Level III: Analysis
1. Why do you think it would be important for travelers on the National Road to know how far they had traveled or how far they had to go to the next town?
2. How do you use information about distances when you are traveling with your family?
3. Do you think travelers on the National Road would have used this information differently in the mid-1800s compared to how your family uses this information today? Explain your answer.